

other person with respect to any such violations.

**§ 956.89 Compliance.**

No handler shall handle Walla Walla Sweet Onions except in conformity to the provisions of this part.

**§ 956.90 Right of the Secretary.**

The members of the committee, including successors and alternates, and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

**§ 956.91 Duration of immunities.**

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

**§ 956.92 Agents.**

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as the Secretary's agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

**§ 956.93 Derogation.**

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the Act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

**§ 956.94 Personal liability.**

No member or alternate of the committee or any employee or agent there-

of, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

**§ 956.95 Separability.**

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

**§ 956.96 Amendments.**

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

## Subpart—Rules and Regulations

SOURCE: 61 FR 44151, Aug. 28, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 956.142 Interest charges.**

The Committee shall impose an interest charge on any handler who fails to pay his or her annual assessments within thirty (30) days of the due date of September 1. The interest charge shall, after 30 days, be 1½ percent of the unpaid assessment balance. In the event the handler fails to pay the delinquent assessment amount within 60 days following the due date, the 1½ percent interest charge shall be applied monthly thereafter to the unpaid balance, including any accumulated interest. Any amount paid by a handler as an assessment, including any charges imposed pursuant to this paragraph, shall be credited when the payment is received in the Committee office.

**§ 956.162 Container markings.**

Effective April 15, 1997, no handler shall ship any container of Walla Walla Sweet Onions except in accordance with the following terms and provisions:

§ 956.163

(a) Each container of Walla Walla Sweet Onions shall be conspicuously marked with the "Genuine Walla Walla Sweet Onion" logo. The marking may be in the form of a decal or a stamped imprint of any color and size: *Provided*, That the decal or stamped imprint must be placed in plain sight and easy to read.

(b) Walla Walla Sweet Onions may be handled not subject to the marking requirements of this section when handlers ship such onions pursuant to § 956.163, or ship such onions in field packed bulk bins containing more than 500 pounds net weight for sale to roadside stands and farmers' market operators for repacking and direct consumer sale: *Provided*, That subject to Committee verification of handler container inventories, handlers may use their existing inventories of unmarked containers until April 15, 1999.

[62 FR 18026, Apr. 14, 1997]

**§ 956.163 Handling for specified purposes.**

(a) Assessment and container marking requirements specified in this part shall not be applicable to shipments of onions for any of the following purposes:

(1) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for relief or to charitable institutions: *Provided*, That such shipments must be donated and not sold in order for this exemption to apply;

(2) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for livestock feed;

(3) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for planting and for plants;

(4) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions as salad onions;

(5) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for all processing uses including, pickling, peeling, dehydration, juicing, or other processing;

(6) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for disposal;

(7) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for seed.

(b) [Reserved]

[62 FR 18026, Apr. 14, 1997]

**§ 956.180 Reports.**

Each handler shall furnish to the Committee by September 1 of each year an annual report containing the

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following information, except that gift-box and roadside stand sales shall be exempt from paragraph (b):

(a) The number of 50 lb. equivalents of Walla Walla Sweet Onions shipped by each handler during each week of the shipping season and the total for the season;

(b) The geographical regions as defined by the Committee to which each shipment is made; and

(c) The name, address, and signature of each handler.

**§ 956.202 Assessment rate.**

On and after June 1, 1996, an assessment rate of \$0.19 per 50 pound bag or equivalent is established for Walla Walla Sweet Onions.

[61 FR 20122, May 6, 1996]

**PART 958—ONIONS GROWN IN CERTAIN DESIGNATED COUNTIES IN IDAHO, AND MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON**

**Subpart—Order Regulating Handling**

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